



PUBLIC POLICY NEWSLETTER

Government Shutdown Enters Day Nine



The federal government is now in its ninth day of a shutdown, following Congress's failure to pass appropriations bills or a continuing resolution (CR) by the September 30 deadline. The duration of the shutdown remains uncertain, as Republicans and Democrats continue to clash over the extension of healthcare subsidies for American citizens.

While the US Department of Transportation faces various furloughs, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) remain open, supported by advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). A detailed shutdown plan for USDOT can be found [here](#).

ACT will continue to keep our members apprised of any developments which could affect federal transportation funding. Please reach out to Emma (ewasserman@actweb.org) with any questions or concerns.

[Contact Emma](#)

[Read the Strategic Plan
comments](#)



#ACTinDC Fly-In Recap

In September, ACT proudly led a delegation of members to Washington, D.C., to share their work and amplify the benefits of TDM on Capitol Hill. Over the course of several impactful days, we



engaged in meaningful conversations with staff from within the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary and staff from 21 Congressional offices from both chambers and across the political spectrum.

These meetings spotlighted ACT's key priorities for the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization and reinforced the critical role of TDM in creating a more efficient transportation system.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible members who traveled near and far to make sure TDM was heard in Washington! Special recognition goes to **Kathryn Hagerman Medina, Veronica Jarvis, Jessica Lin, Matt Meservy, Larry Filler, Lakshna Jha, Kerry McKenney, and Stacy Bartels** for their outstanding work and dedication.

USDOT Seeks Applications for Intercity Passenger Rail Projects



The USDOT Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for projects aimed at improving intercity passenger rail networks outside the Northeast Corridor. Eligible projects focus on enhancing safety, reducing the State of Good Repair backlog, improving service performance, and establishing or expanding new rail routes. You can read more [here](#).

**Learn about the
NOFO**

TDM Week Spotlight: TDM Education Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol



During this year's policy-focused TDM Week, ACT's Midwest Chapter Policy Chair and City of Madison TDM Coordinator, Trent Schultz, spearheaded a "TDM Education Day" at the Wisconsin State Capitol. The delegation included:

- **David Salmon**, Transportation Coordinator, City of Sun Prairie
- **Zia Brucaya**, RoundTrip TDM Program Manager, Greater Madison MPO
- **Alexander Brown**, Planner, SRF Consulting
- **Val Hoff**, Sales Executive, Commute with Enterprise
- **Susan Gaeddert**, Commuter Solutions Coordinator, UW-Madison Transportation Services

The group met with legislative offices for Representative Andrew Hysell, Senator Kelda Roys, Representative Francesca Hong, and Representative Lisa Subeck to educate staff about...

Key Transportation Grants Canceled Amid Shift in Priorities



In an unprecedented move, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) under the Trump administration has revoked several previously awarded transportation grants. These grant cancellations, initially awarded as part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), affect projects across at least six states, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Mexico.

The cuts reflect a broader shift away from discretionary grant programs. While these projects were awarded, they were never formally finalized. According to the USDOT, future “multimodal grant programs” will prioritize “projects that promote vehicular travel” and favor “traditional forms of energy and natural resources.” The rescinded projects include bike and pedestrian trails, electric vehicle charging expansions, and traffic safety initiatives such as road diets.

Additionally, the Republicans' signature “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” has prompted further reductions in transportation funding, including cuts to the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) program and Reconnecting Communities Grants. These programs were designed to reconnect disadvantaged neighborhoods divided by roadways through a variety of different programs, including improving pedestrian safety and walkability, traffic congestion management, and more. States including Kentucky, Utah, New York, Montana, and Maryland have all been affected. The USDOT has supported the cuts, citing opposition to the Biden Administration’s emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion in grant allocations.

Massachusetts Proposes Fare Equity for Commuter Rail Riders



The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering a bill that would allow commuter rail riders within Boston city limits to pay the same fare as the subway system. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu emphasized the impact: “This would help so many residents who don’t want to drive and stay in traffic but can’t afford the cost of a monthly pass currently.”

A trip on the “T,” Boston’s subway system, costs \$2.40 regardless of distance. By contrast, a single commuter rail trip within the city can reach up to \$7 - nearly three times the subway fare. If passed, the legislation would make all commuter rail stops within Boston city limits equivalent in cost to the subway, expanding affordable mobility options and better distributing demand across Boston’s rail services.

Ensure TDM's Voice is Heard with ACT PAC

ACT PAC is a vital tool that helps ACT amplify your voice and advance TDM policy by supporting candidates who champion our mission and policy agenda.

Your contribution empowers us to educate elected officials on the real-world impact of TDM. Help us ensure that TDM is at the forefront of discussions shaping the future of mobility.

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contribute**

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